

# FRAMING THE AMERICAN DREAM

# FLOOR TRUSSES



*Framing the American Dream* conducted two controlled experiments to allow for apples-to-apples framing comparisons. In 1995, and again in 2015, two identical houses were framed side-by-side.



The only difference between the two homes was one house was entirely stick-framed, while the other home was framed using structural components, including roof trusses, wall panels and floor trusses.

## What We Learned

According to NAHB, 70 percent of all residential floor systems are constructed on-site using solid-sawn lumber or engineered wood I-joists. However, these experiments clearly indicate there's a better way to frame today's floors that takes less labor and requires less skilled carpentry:

2015	JOISTS	HOURS	FRAMING TAKES ALMOST HALF THE TIME!
 SITE CUT FLOOR JOISTS	45	31.5 HRS	
2015	TRUSSES	HOURS	SAVINGS
 MANUFACTURED FLOOR TRUSSES	33	16.5 HRS	15.0 HRS

## Additional Benefits

One of the factors that contributes to the swift installation of floor trusses is that framers aren't required to measure and cut each floor joist on the jobsite. Floor trusses can also bear more load, which means less framing

members need to be installed to complete the same floor system.

Floor trusses are built in a controlled manufacturing environment with the help of computer-aided machinery and a rigorous quality control program that ensure each truss is built to the correct and uniform length and depth.

*Framing the American Dream* data suggests that installing floor trusses completes the task of framing a building's floor system in almost half the time, requires less framer skill and experience and ultimately results in a product that is more reliable.

